



Leon County

Board of County Commissioners

301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 488-4710 www.leoncountyfl.gov

Attachment # 3
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February 3, 2006

Commissioners

HILL PROCTOR
District 1

ANE G. SAULS
District 2

DAN WINCHESTER
District 3

TONY GRIPPA
District 4

BOB RACKLEFF
District 5

CLIFF THAELL
At-Large

ED DePUY
At-Large

PARWEZ ALAM
County Administrator

HERBERT W.A. THIELE
County Attorney

Mr. Ion Sancho, Leon County Supervisor of Elections
301 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Dear Supervisor Sancho:

I have attached an extremely disturbing letter from the Secretary of State that I received today. As I read the letter, the following has occurred:

- 1) Your office has to return a \$564,421.95 voting assistance grant to the State of Florida for failing to comply with the terms of the agreement.
- 2) If Leon County's voting systems are not accessible to the disabled for any upcoming elections, the Department of Justice can enforce the law by declaratory and injunctive relief.
- 3) If your office is not in compliance with the law, the Florida Department of State may consider exercising enforcement authority.
- 4) You have until February 16, 2005, 5 p.m. to provide to the Secretary of State "a detailed, written plan, including a timeline, of the actions you intend to take to ensure that an accessible voting system" will be in place for the next federal election.

The above statements are not only alarming, they seriously place in jeopardy our County's long standing tradition of supporting the democratic process in providing open and accessible elections for every citizen.

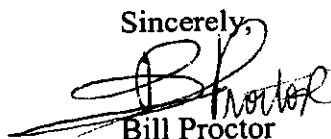
My anxiety rests mainly in your apparent disregard for the Board's role in funding your entire function. As you may recall, pursuant to your request, the County included \$347,578 in the adopted budget for the purchase of ADA Voting Systems. Pursuant to your request on December 13, 2005, the Board of County Commissioner's reallocated an additional \$750,000 to purchase voting equipment. At no time during any of these communications did you make the Board aware that our \$564,421 state grant was in jeopardy? Nor did you communicate with the Board that your office was positioning the County to be unable to comply with both State and Federal election law?

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It is very disturbing that the only time the Board hears of these matters is through our local media or a letter from the State of Florida. To bring clarity to all those affected, I am having this matter placed on the Board's February 14th 2006 agenda. I am requesting that you please attend and be prepared to address the four bullet points noted above. I would also appreciate you informing the Board of your specific plans to comply with Secretary of State's requests.

I look forward to your report at the Board meeting.

Sincerely,



Bill Proctor

Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

CC County Commissioners
 Parwez Alam, County Administrator
 Herbert W. A. Thiele, Esq., County Attorney

Attached: Letter of February 2, 2006 from the Secretary of State